50th ANNIVERSARY
St. Johannes Lutheran Church
1891 1941

ST. JOHN'S SYMBOL ON MISSAL STAND

"The symbol of St. John is the eagle because from first to last his Gospel soars on eagle's wings to the very throne of heaven." F. R. Webber
("In Church Symbolism")

All Glory be to God on High!

AT THE FIFTIETH MILESTONE

A BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE FOR

Fifty Years of Divine Blessings

St. Johannes Evangelical Lutheran Church
Decatur, Illinois

Published by the Anniversary Committee

"Thou shalt remember ALL THE WAY which the Lord thy God led thee."—Deut. 8, 2.

St. Johannes Lutheran Church

Rev. E. C. Wegehaupt, Pastor

St. John

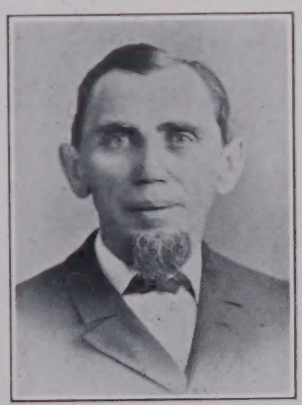
History of St. Johannes Lutheran Church

WHEN A CHURCH rounds out fifty years of organizational existence, it is fitting that it furnish its members with a few high-lights of its history. It will, no doubt, be interesting to our members to have before them a brief resumé of the years during which our congregation developed to its present status. Space, of course, does not permit an exhaustive treatment, and we shall be compelled to confine ourselves to what we may call an historical summary.

St. Johannes Lutheran Church is a daughter of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, formerly called Zion, corner Wood and Edward Streets, Decatur, Illinois.

During the eighties many Lutherans from Germany settled in the northeastern part of the city. They naturally wished to send their children to a Christian Day School in which the German language was used as the medium of instruction. Since St. Paul's School, located at that time on the corner of East Prairie and Jackson Streets, was too small and too far for these children to attend, the congregation was asked to build a school in the northeastern section of the city. It declined to do so.

The need of a Christian Day School for their children had become the topic of the day among these German immigrants. They came together for meetings and prayerfully deliberated on ways and means of remedying this urgent need. Their first step was to organize a School and Mission Society (Schul- und Missions-Verein). This organization, aided by Pastor Landgraf of St. Paul's, was willing to shoulder the responsibility of building and maintaining a Christian Day School. They therefore requested permission to build and operate a school of their own under the supervision of St. Paul's Congregation and its pastor. This request was granted. The property where our present school is located was bought. A school, suited to their needs, was built. This school was dedicated on February 5, 1888.



Rev. George Landgraf

A call was extended to Teacher Gneisenau, but he declined. The School Society next appealed to the Seminary in Springfield for a student. Mr. A. F. Imm was assigned to the new school by the president of the institution. Mr. Imm most likely taught school from Easter

Rev. J. L. Craemer

to summer vacation. Sometime during the summer of 1888 Candidate F. K. Hildebrandt, to whom a call had been extended, arrived and took charge of the school in September.

New difficulties must have arisen, for during the summer of 1889 the School and Mission Society offered its school to St. Paul's Congregation; however, this offer was rejected. In order to conduct the affairs of the new school more efficiently, a new School Society was organized under the direction of the Rev. J. L. Craemer of St. Paul's Congregation. A constitution was submitted by the pastor, which was adopted on October 7, 1889. The society was legally incorporated on February 28, 1890. In the spring of 1890 an additional classroom was built. Miss Adele Holst of Mt. Pulaski was employed as second teacher.

Various new difficulties which arose in the mother church made it advisable that a separation of the two groups now take place. Upon the advice of both the Visitor of the Circuit, Pastor G. Link of Springfield, and the President of the Illinois District of the Missouri Synod, Pastor H. Succop of Chicago, a proposal of a separation of the two groups was considered and accepted after the example of Abraham and Lot, Gen. 13:8ff. In a meeting held on November 30, 1891, the following articles of agreement were unanimously adopted by both parties:

1. That the South-side pay the North-side the sum of $1,500.00; this sum to be paid in cash on the day of separation.
2. That this day of separation be December 1, 1891.
3. That the congregation (both parties jointly) pay the salaries of pastor, teachers, and janitor up to December 1, 1891.
4. That the North-side give the South-side a "Quitclaim deed" to all property of the congregation as soon as possible.
5. That the South-side take over all debts on the property of the congregation.

Both groups had already held separate meetings to reorganize.. On November 8, 1891, the North-siders met in their schoolhouse, corner Orchard and Lowber Streets, and adopted point for point the constitution which had been prepared by Rev. H. W. Lessmann, who had succeeded Rev. J. L. Craemer in 1890 as pastor of St. Paul's Congregation.

The congregation organized on the basis of Rev. Lessmann's constitution on November 11, 1891. It chose and called Rev. H. W. Lessmann as pastor, and Mr. F. K. Hildebrandt as teacher of its Christian Day School. Both received their release from St. Paul's and accepted our call. The following

"I have laid the foundation and another buildeth."

—I Corinthians 3, 10.

officers were elected: Board of Elders, Albert Gutmann and Rudolph Flecht; Financial Secretary, Albert Gutmann; Treasurer, F. Bolz, (Rudolph Flecht was elected in his place, since Mr. Bolz saw fit to resign); Trustees, Theodore Beck, William Bolz and Albert Buckmakowski; School Board Members, William Bolz and Herman Grabowski.

Rev. H. W. Lessmann

It was decided that for the time being services were to be held in the school.

It is claimed that the Ladies' Aid Society was founded and organized during the first month of the congregation's existence.

On December 13 a committee was appointed by the congregation to look over sites for the new church and to inquire as to their prices. Several reports of its findings were made by this committee. January 24, 1892, was set as the meeting date on which a site should be chosen. The committee reported in this meeting that the site favored by the majority had gone up in price from $1,750.00 to $1,824.00. In spite of the fact that this location was not the cheapest, the northeast corner of Orchard and Illinois Streets, the present site of our church, was chosen.

On March 27, 1892, the congregation resolved to apply for membership in the Missouri Synod. This request was granted at the Synodical Sessions held from April 28 to May 4 of the same year. Since Miss Holst wished to resign at the end of the school year, Candidate A. L. Lamp was called as the second teacher in March 1892.

Since the congregation had definitely decided to build its new church on the corner of Orchard and Illinois Streets, it could now proceed to make plans for the erection of the church. In a meeting held on February 14, 1892, the congregation deliberated on various plans, but no definite decision was made. On April 10, 1892, the plans of architect McNabb were presented to the congregation. After careful study these plans were accepted by the congregation. A certain Mr. Baker offered to build the church for $12,179.00 "without glass in the windows." He was given the contract. The house on the lot to be occupied by the church was moved to the eastern boundary line. Two rooms were added. It served as the parsonage till 1906. At that time it was moved away to make room for the present parsonage.

All members were now urged to pay their pledges toward the Building Fund promptly. Over $5,000.00 had been subscribed at this time. This sacrifice of the fathers of our congregation is a fine example for us to follow.

The cornerstone of the church was laid on July 24, 1892. The church was dedicated to the service of the Triune God on the fourth Sunday in Advent,

"Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." —Psalm 127, 1.

Church erected in 1892

December 18, 1892. We can be sure that all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the Lord on this day of rejoicing.

The cost of the church (including organ and electric lighting) was $16,199.31. In February 1893 Mr. Hildebrandt accepted a call to Troy, Illinois. Mr. A. L. Lamp was placed into the upper grades. In June of the same year a third class was established. This class was taught at first by the pastor, then by a student, and later by Mr. H. Abel, who was called as teacher.

In 1894 Mr. Lamp resigned because of sickness; Mr. Abel accepted a call to Elmhurst, Illinois. (Mr. Abel died September 16, 1941.) A call was extended to Mr. M. Reinhardt of Nebraska, and he accepted. Miss Adele Holst again returned and was placed in charge of the third class. In November Rev. H. W. Lessmann received a call to Grand Prairie, Illinois, and was peaceably dismissed. Rev. George Mezger of Okawville, Illinois, was called as his successor in December, and was installed on March 3, 1895. Prof. F. Streckfuss of Springfield, Illinois, served as vacancy pastor.

The congregation took a lively interest in its youth. This was manifested by the fact that already in February 1895 a young people's society was organized. In the summer of the same year Mr. J. T. Link was called as teacher for the second class.

Rev. George Mezger

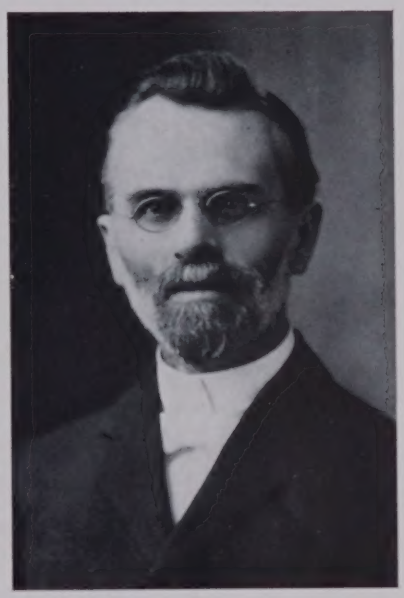
On August 23, 1896, Rev. George Mezger was granted a peaceful dismissal to accept a professorship in St. Louis, Missouri. Prof. F. Streckfuss again served as vacancy pastor. The congregation extended a call to Rev. A. F. William Heyne of Zion Lutheran Church, New Orleans, Louisiana. He accepted, and was installed on November 29, 1896. By the grace of God Rev. Heyne served St. Johannes Congregation faithfully and efficiently for almost thirty-three years.

In March 1898 Miss Holst resigned as teacher. Mr. Max Scheiter of Mt. Olive was called. He was installed on August 28 of the same year.

"Lord, I have loved the habitation of Thy house, and the place where thine honor dwelleth."

—Psalm 26, 8.

It was decided to build a brick schoolhouse, consisting of five classrooms and a basement. On June 19, 1898, the contract was awarded to architect F. D. Clesson. The dedication took place on January 15 of the next year. The total cost of the school was $5,404.51.



Rev. A. F. Wm. Heyne

In 1899 Mr. Reinhardt's 25th anniversary was celebrated. On December 16, 1900, Mr. Reinhardt was granted a peaceful dismissal, so that he might follow a call to Chicago. On March 10, 1901, Mr. R. Lorenz of Klein, Texas, was installed as teacher. In the summer of 1901, the fourth class was added. Miss Holst was again engaged as teacher of this class.

Mr. M. Scheiter was peacefully dismissed to St. Paul's Congregation, Decatur, on March 2, 1902. Candidate Paul A. Schuelke was installed as teacher of the third class on August 24.

On March 20, 1904, it was decided to add a fifth class to the school. In September Student Edwin Heyne was placed in charge of the fourth class, Miss Holst taking the fifth class. During the summer of this year the church was thoroughly renovated, and painted inside at a cost of $900.00. A new boiler was placed in the school. Previously the classrooms had been heated by individual coal stoves. On December 18 Mr. P. A. Schuelke accepted a call to Hammond, Indiana.

Mr. H. C. Meier was installed on March 26, 1905. Miss A. Holst, who was teacher of the fifth class, went to Chicago, and Miss Agnes Liebe was placed in charge of this class. Candidate M. Rabe was called as teacher of the fourth class. He replaced Mr. Edwin Heyne in September of 1905. Miss Lydia Berg was engaged to take the place of Miss Liebe as teacher of the fifth class.

In January 1906 the two lots adjoining the church property on the east were bought for $2,500.00. During the summer the present brick parsonage was erected at a cost of $5,500.00.

On February 16, 1908, a peaceful dismissal was granted to Mr. J. T. Link, so that he might accept a professorship in Seward, Nebraska. Mr. K. H. Floering of Fort Wayne, Indiana, was called. He was installed on July 12. Since the debt of the congregation was steadily on the increase, it was decided to make an earnest attempt to wipe out the $9,000.00 deficit in two or three years.

Up till 1908 outside toilets had been in use at the school. In that year toilets and drinking facilities were installed in the basement of the school.

"I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."
—JEREMIAH 3, 15.

Parsonage erected in 1906

This, plus some other work in that connection, cost the congregation $924.00. These toilets served till 1938.

The annual school picnic was held for the first time in Fairview Park in 1910. During the fall of this year the congregation acquired a plot of ground of 5.88 acres, three miles northeast of the church at Swartz Crossing, for a cemetery. The sale of lots is restricted to Lutherans who are members of a congregation affiliated with the Missouri Synod. More than 400 burials have occurred there during the past 31 years.

On June 25, 1911, Mr. M. Rabe was peacefully dismissed to Chicago. Mr. A. J. Holtman of Ashland, Kentucky, was called, and installed on October 29. At this time the weekly envelope system was introduced.

Mr. K. H. Floering accepted a call to Ft. Wayne, Indiana, on May 26, 1912. Mr. Paul Arndt, a teacher from Steeleville, Illinois, was called and installed in the fall. St. Johannes was still growing, for it was necessary to organize a sixth class at this time; the two lower classes were taught by Miss Anna Baginski and Miss Alma Heyne; Mr. H. C. Meier accepted a call to Hammond, Indiana. His successor, Mr. August F. Droegemueller of Friedheim, Missouri, arrived late in the fall.

In 1912 a former resolution to build a second school on the parsonage lot was cancelled, and the Schwalbe property next to the school was bought for $1,800.00. The residence located on this lot was to be used temporarily as a school. A Building Committee made up of W. Bolz, G. Jendrny, A. Heusterberg, C. Hendrian, and F. Bolz was elected on February 23, 1913. After this committee had submitted various plans for the new addition to the school, a plan was chosen; the contract for its construction was awarded to Mr. E. C. Rakow on May 25 for $9,175.00, exclusive of plumbing, heating, and lighting. On July 20 the cornerstone of the new school was laid, and on November 9 it was dedicated. On March 30, 1913, it was resolved that monthly English evening services be introduced as an experiment. Prof. O. C. Boecler was secured as speaker for these services.

In September 1914 Miss Anna Bredlau replaced Miss Alma Heyne in the first grade.

"Ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building."
—I Corinthians 3, 9.

Rev. Robert Heyne

In 1915 the congregation began to replace the old seats in school with modern single desks. School was closed for weeks because of a scarlet fever epidemic. As a result of this, confirmation services did not take place until the Sunday before Pentecost. On August 29 Mr. Paul W. Arndt's 25th anniversary was celebrated. A month later he left for St. Charles, Missouri, where he had accepted a position in Immanuel Lutheran School. Teacher H. F. Klinkermann of Dallas, Texas, was called November 21, 1915, and installed January 2, 1916.

In 1916 the seventh class was added to the school, and was taught temporarily by Mr. William B. Heyne, Jr. On the first Sunday in Advent of that year the congregation celebrated the 25th anniversary of its founding. Speakers on this happy occasion were: Rev. Wm. Heyne, Prof. O. Boecler, and Prof. G. Mezger.

Miss Anna Baginski resigned as teacher in June 1917. Candidate E. P. Grefe, of Seward, Nebraska, accepted our call to teach the third grade, and Mr. Edmund Knuth of Mobile, Alabama, was called to teach the second grade. Both were installed on September 2, 1917.

On January 6, 1918, Mr. H. F. Klinkermann received his peaceful release. Rev. Robert Heyne of St. Louis was called as assistant pastor and as teacher of the second grade. He was installed on the second Sunday after Easter. During this year a Spanish Influenza epidemic caused the school and church to be closed for weeks. Twenty burials took place from October to January inclusive. This year marks the beginning of the early Christmas morning service in the English language.

In 1919 the congregation participated in the $3,000,000.00 Endowment Fund Drive of the L. L. L. Mr. A. J. Holtman, who had received a call from Ft. Wayne, Indiana, was released on July 31. Since no regular teacher could be procured before the opening of school in the fall, Rev. Flachsbart of Bloomington was engaged to instruct the sixth grade during the vacancy. On November 30, 1919, the congregation called Mr. F. W. Brink of St. Charles, Missouri. He accepted the call, but conditions made it impossible for him to arrive until the end of January, 1920. His installation took place on February 5.

During the summer months of 1920, the English evening service was transferred to 8:30 a. m. Mr. E. P. Grefe accepted a call to Wakefield, Nebraska. He was replaced by Mr. E. D. Keyl. During the summer the congregation celebrated Mr. Lorenz's 25th anniversary.

"Our Messenger" came into being on April 21, 1921. The assistant pastor, Rev. Robert Heyne, was relieved from teaching the second grade, and Miss Bertha Luehrsen took his place. It was decided to build a second parsonage next to the first. The cost was $5,442.00. Mr. E. D. Keyl, who had resigned temporarily, died in December; a faithful servant of the church had passed to his eternal reward.

"We speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts." —I Thessalonians 2, 4.

Second Parsonage—1921

Mr. A. F. Droegemueller received his release to Independence, Kansas, on January 29, 1922. Student Wendling of Concordia Seminary, Springfield, took charge of the fourth grade, and Mr. Knuth was given the fifth grade. In the spring of this year the congregation called Mr. F. W. Klebe of Hankinson, North Dakota, for the fourth grade, and Candidate Paul Winterstein of River Forest for the third grade. Both were installed on August 27.

In 1923 Orchard Street was paved, and over $700.00 was raised to pay the congregation's share. In this year the Men's Club was organized by the Visiting Committee.

In May, 1925, Mr. Winterstein accepted a call to Buckley, Illinois, and in December Rev. Robert Heyne received his peaceful release to Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. The blessings bestowed upon St. Johannes through his consecrated efforts are many. The bulletin board, donated by the Mission Society, was placed in the southwest corner in front of the church.

In 1926 the congregation resolved to call an assistant pastor. The Rev. C. J. Pritz, of Lowden, Iowa, was called; he accepted the call, and was installed on May 30. In August Mr. R. Lorenz resigned, and Miss Anna Bredlau informed the congregation that she would not teach the coming year. The vacancy in the seventh and eighth grades was filled by students from Concordia Seminary, Springfield. Miss Esther Oelgeschlager was put in charge of the first grade, replacing Miss Bredlau. In November Rev. Heyne's thirtieth anniversary as pastor of St. Johannes was duly observed.

In 1927 Rev. Wm. Heyne was granted a leave of absence of several months so that he might visit his aged sister and other relatives and friends in Germany. Miss Lydia Predoehl was engaged to teach the second grade since Miss Luehrsen had resigned this position. Mr. F. C. Wunderlich of Seattle, Washington, accepted our call to take charge of the seventh and eighth grades. He arrived in Decatur during the latter part of August and was installed on the 28th of the same month. In the fall of this year a number of members in the south-east section of Decatur received their release from St. Johannes to organize Trinity Lutheran Church of Decatur. Assistant Pastor C. J. Pritz accepted the call of the daughter church, and was released by St. Johannes. Trinity Parish House, in the 1900 Block East Johns Street, was dedicated in 1928 with the well wishes of the mother-church.

"This stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house." —GENESIS 28, 22.

Trinity Parish House

Rev. Carl J. Pritz

The year 1928 marked a decided step forward in the life of St. Johannes. What had been necessary for a long time, and had been prayed for by many faithful members, came to pass by the grace of God, when the resolution to remodel the church was successfully carried out. The church was completely renovated; an addition was built on the east side, which we now call the "L". The outer walls of the old church were brick veneered. A new Wurlitzer organ was installed for $6,400. A new altar, pulpit, and lectern were purchased for $1,839. The new heating plant cost $1,605. A total of $50,790.63 was expended for this renovation. Our "Church Beautiful" was rededicated to the service of the Lord on November 18.

Rev. Wm. Heyne's resignation as pastor was accepted in May 1929. In August Rev. E. F. Mueller of Strasburg, Illinois, was called. He was installed in October. After but a few weeks of service Rev. Mueller suffered a complete nervous breakdown. Long weeks and months of prayerful waiting for the pastor's recovery followed, but in vain; for in the spring of the following year Rev. Mueller handed in his resignation. Mr. Edmund Knuth instructed the confirmation class during this year.

Director H. A. Klein of our Springfield Seminary served as vacancy pastor. All other pastoral care was provided by the local pastors, Rev. C. J. Pritz and Rev. W. Obermeyer.

During 1930 Miss Lydia Predoehl was placed in charge of the first grade since Miss Esther Oelgeschlager decided to quit teaching. In July a service commemorating the 400th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession was held in Fairview Park. In October the Central Illinois District Convention assembled in our church. This was the first time a District Convention took

"Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God."
—I Corinthians 4, 1.

BUILDING COMMITTEE—1928

Back Row: Messrs. Julius Riewski, Emil Kujawa, William Tebussek, Adolf Artze, August Morenz.
First Row: Adam Gendry, Herman Kersch, Harry Nalefski, John Thomley.

place in St. Johannes. In October Rev. E. C. Wegehaupt of Chatham, Illinois, our present pastor, was called. He was installed on November 23. In the evening a reception was tendered the new pastor and his good wife.

In November 1931 the 40th anniversary of the founding of the congregation was celebrated.

The first "Week of Services" was conducted during the week of November 6-13, 1932. The 40th anniversary of the dedication of our church was celebrated on December 18. Prof. Richard Neitzel of our Springfield Seminary was the guest speaker.

In commemoration of the 450th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther's birth, a special Week of Services was held beginning with October 31, 1933. Seven blessings of the Reformation were chosen as topics.

Rev. E. F. Mueller

In 1934 a special service was held in honor of Missionary George Mueller, a son of our former pastor, in order to wish him God-speed for his coming arduous labors in South America. Since Miss Lydia Predoehl informed the congregation that she did not intend to teach the first grade for the 1934-35 school term, Miss Esther Oelgeschlager, who had proven herself an efficient and faithful teacher, was asked to fill the vacancy.

In 1935 the teachers of our school were given a tuberculosis examination by Dr. Lindberg; all were found to be free from the disease.

During the summer of 1936 our pastor, E. C. Wegehaupt, was granted a three months' vacation to visit Europe. This

"Know them which labor among you and are over you in the Lord, . . . esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake." —I THESSALONIANS 5, 12-13.

was a well-earned rest period. The 45th anniversary of our church was commemorated with a special Week of Services during the week of November 8-15. Since additional sets of pipes could be added to our church organ, a committee in charge bought another organ for this purpose. Five sets of pipes and a set of chimes were added to our Wurlitzer organ. Mr. Chrastina, a well-known organ builder, installed the additions to the organ and moved the console to the balcony. The total cost of material and installation was $1,122.81.

Rev. E. C. Wegehaupt

A "Lutheran Hour Rally" service was held on January 31, 1937, with Dr. William Arndt of our Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, as speaker. The rally was sponsored by the Lutheran Publicity Committee of the three Missouri Synod Lutheran Churches of Decatur. The publication of the bi-monthly "Messenger" and the mimeographed weekly bulletin were discontinued. A printed weekly "Messenger" was substituted.

In 1938 the church was redecorated by Mr. Henry W. Kroeger at a cost of $1,265.00. In order to make our sanitary facilities at the school conform to modern health requirements, the toilet-rooms were equipped with new fixtures. The Junior and Senior Bible Classes were combined and reorganized on October 9 with Pastor E. C. Wegehaupt as instructor. The class adopted the name "Timothy Bible Class." The enrollment soon reached the 100 mark. "My Church" was the topic chosen for our special Week of Services November 13-20 in commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the rededication of "Our Church Beautiful". Nine English and nine German Services were held during that week. President J. W. Behnken, D.D., and other noted professors and pastors were the guest speakers.

On January 29, 1939, a special Jubilee Service was held in commemoration of the Centennial of the Saxon Immigration. Synod's Centennial sound-motion-picture, "The Call of the Cross", was shown in our church on May 7. The picture with its gripping scenes was very interesting and instructive. By October 1, $2,151.27 had been collected for the Centennial Thank-Offering. A new Hearing Aid was installed in the main auditorium of the church, and a loud-speaker was placed in the basement in order to aid those in our midst whose hearing is impaired or who cannot, for one reason or another, remain in the church auditorium. The 50th anniversary of our Christian Day School was celebrated in a special Week of Services held from November 12-21. The sermon topics for this occasion were very appropriate.

"And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers." —Ephesians 4, 11.

FOUNDERS DAY—1931

During the summer of 1940 the school was equipped with new, modern drinking fountains. The Central Illinois District convened in our church from October 6-11. In order to show our appreciation and gratitude toward God for His many blessings showered upon our congregation during the fifty years of its existence, it was decided to make the entire coming (1941) church year a Jubilee Year.

During this Golden Anniversary year the congregation decided to introduce the new Lutheran Hymnal. Nine hundred copies have been ordered; 600 for individuals, and 300 for use in the church. To avoid unnecessary handling of these hymnals, book racks have been affixed to the pews. It is hoped that the new hymnals will arrive in time to be used during the final Week of Services of this Golden Aninversary year.

This summer it was discovered that the boiler in school, which had been installed in 1923, was beyond repair. In a special Voters' Assembly held on September 4, 1941, it was decided to install a new and larger boiler with a stoker. It has now been installed at a cost of $2,077.26. Besides this, the boiler room floor has been concreted, the ceiling fireproofed with cement plaster, a partition built between boiler room and coal bin, and a ventilator has been installed, as well as other necessary repairs made.

As we review and remember the blessings of our Heavenly Father showered upon St. Johannes Congregation during the past half-century, we must humbly bow our heads, and say with that ancient man of God: "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name give glory, for Thy mercy, and for Thy truth's sake."—Psalm 115, 1.

Soli Deo Gloria!

STATISTICS OF ST. JOHANNES EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
1891 — 1941

	MEMBERS			DAY SCHOOL		SUNDAY SCHOOL	OFFICIAL ACTS						
Year	Souls	Communicant	Voting	Pupils	Teachers	Pupils	Baptized Children	Baptized Adults	Confirmed Children	Confirmed Adults	Communed	Married	Buried
1891	....	....	...	...	..	...	4	..	..	..	87	2	10
1892	975	550	170	210	2	...	67	1	29	..	746	16	20
1893	1000	565	189	227	3	...	84	1	21	..	917	10	24
1894	1020	575	194	238	3	...	64	..	22	..	814	9	20
1895	1050	600	206	267	3	...	84	..	30	..	1224	13	21
1896	1090	630	220	287	3	...	56	..	30	..	1152	5	10
1897	1410	735	230	290	3	...	67	..	44	..	1553	12	23
1898	1460	800	236	300	4	...	65	..	35	1	1777	4	18
1899	1490	830	241	300	3	...	61	..	48	..	1778	14	21
1900	1500	858	241	300	3	...	56	..	43	..	1917	8	19
1901	1510	863	235	320	4	...	58	..	33	..	1969	10	20
1902	1540	894	234	350	4	...	58	..	47	..	1993	12	14
1903	1590	904	236	375	4	...	65	..	42	..	2161	21	16
1904	1660	958	230	388	5	...	67	1	47	..	2017	12	21
1905	1690	982	238	356	5	...	61	..	49	..	2275	11	32
1906	1750	1016	244	355	5	...	58	..	45	..	2317	16	13
1907	1830	1100	246	381	5	...	71	..	58	..	2562	31	19
1908	1843	1115	251	389	5	...	62	..	48	..	2587	11	24
1909	1870	1144	247	350	5	...	73	..	65	1	2578	14	17
1910	1925	1170	256	365	5	...	69	..	46	..	2624	19	19
1911	1975	1190	267	375	5	...	69	1	50	1	2815	10	21
1912	1935	1224	260	380	5	...	76	..	44	..	2725	13	17
1913	1970	1249	265	377	6	...	62	2	56	4	2795	16	20
1914	2000	1258	265	403	6	...	69	..	48	1	2786	17	26
1915	2020	1290	265	429	6	...	63	..	52	2	2892	16	19
1916	2045	1300	284	441	7	...	52	..	45	..	2705	21	23
1917	2075	1310	308	438	7	...	56	1	56	..	2846	22	25
1918	2100	1325	310	428	7	450	72	1	57	..	2815	14	30
1919	2115	1343	298	404	7	460	59	1	57	3	2814	31	29
1920	2125	1340	311	393	7	410	68	1	47	4	3011	26	20
1921	2100	1330	308	382	7	400	72	..	45	4	3064	23	20
1922	2050	1339	306	360	7	390	40	3	41	9	3049	19	23
1923	2075	1375	305	328	7	350	82	4	61	10	3195	35	24
1924	2090	1400	306	318	7	350	57	5	61	12	3144	28	29
1925	2060	1375	306	305	6	400	49	..	35	12	3049	27	17
1926	2040	1354	272	292	6	350	59	..	48	..	2978	17	29
1927	1850	1250	240	278	6	371	43	2	41	10	2898	21	19
1928	1800	1230	241	243	6	321	37	3	44	7	2606	12	19
1929	1880	1250	253	250	6	340	32	1	35	4	2314	25	11
1930	1800	1200	250	237	5	453	28	..	26	..	2574	11	22
1931	1800	1200	250	234	5	415	37	3	30	7	3012	10	13
1932	1800	1200	250	248	5	447	33	6	33	13	3248	4	22
1933	1800	1250	251	244	5	494	36	5	39	8	3268	10	15
1934	1800	1250	252	234	5	447	30	7	32	12	3643	17	18
1935	1725	1250	250	228	5	434	44	15	34	8	3814	25	25
1936	1750	1250	250	220	5	345	28	9	36	16	4011	20	26
1937	1750	1250	259	199	5	360	51	4	36	13	3970	16	22
1938	1776	1250	249	200	5	266	36	6	28	18	3975	8	18
1939	1782	1250	240	196	5	249	44	..	35	..	4034	10	19
1940	1720	1314	238	189	5	370	33	8	30	15	4044	10	18
1941													

TWO-ROOM
FRAME
SCHOOL

A. L. LAMP
Teacher
1892-1894

St. Johannes School

In His great commission to the Christian Church, Christ says: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, . . . Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you". The Christian Church has ever been mindful of this command, and sought to carry it out to the best of its ability. It was Luther, who more than any other individual, since the days of the apostles, stressed the principle of Christian education of the child as a duty of the church. Of all the protestant denominations it is the Lutheran Church which still upholds this principle.

The leaders of the Lutheran Church in America, especially the leaders in our own Missouri Lutheran Synod, stressed the importance of instructing and of indoctrinating the youth in the teachings of Jesus Christ. To this end they advocated the establishment of Christian Day schools in every Lutheran congregation. In these schools religion was not only to be taught as a branch in the curriculum, but it was to permeate all the branches taught. Missionaries were advised and urged to open new mission fields by opening a Christian Day school. St. Johannes Lutheran Church is one of the many congregations in our synod that can trace its history back to a Christian Day School.

It must have been some time during the '80's that a number of Lutherans, members of present St. Paul's Lutheran Church, residing in the northeast part of Decatur, formed a School-and Mission-Society. This society, under the leadership of Rev. Landgraf, a man of missionary zeal and vision, soon

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me and forbid them not." —Mark 10, 14.

"All thy children shall be taught of the Lord."
—Isaiah 54, 13.

realized that the best way to win and keep the many German Lutherans, who in those years settled in this part of the city, with the Lutheran church, would be to establish a German Lutheran school in their midst. In 1887 they petitioned St. Paul's Church to erect a school building in the northeast section of the city. They pointed out that the distance was too great and the way too hazardous, especially for the little ones (this was before Jasper Street subway was built). They also stressed the fact that, since St. Paul's School was already overcrowded, it offered no further mission possibilities. St. Paul's declined to undertake the venture, but eventually granted the society permission to build and operate a school of its own under the supervision of St. Paul's Church.

First Brick School—1898

The Cross School-and Mission-Society immediately set to work and constructed a frame building 24 by 40 feet on two lots at Orchard and Lowber Streets. These lots had been donated to the society by some of its members. This building was dedicated on February 5, 1888. It seems that the school was opened after Easter of that year with student A. F. Imm in charge.

During the summer of 1888, Candidate F. K. Hildebrandt took charge of the new school.

Present School—1913

During the second school year, on March 9, 1890, Mr. Hildebrandt reported to the society that he had 120 pupils in school, and that he had prospects that the enrollment would reach 147 after Easter. The society resolved to build another room of the same dimensions as the original building, across the back end of that building, so as to form a "T". In June 1890 this second room was dedicated. Miss Adele Holst was employed to instruct the lower class.

On November 11, 1891, the Cross School Society organized as The St. Johannes Ev. Lutheran Church. On December 1, 1891, the formal separation from St. Paul's took place.

In June 1893 the enrollment stood at 227, too many for two classes. The basement of the new church, constructed during the previous year, was equipped during the summer to serve as a class room for the third class, i.e. the lowest class. Pastor Lessmann offered to instruct. It soon became evident that the work was too much for the pastor. To relieve him, students were engaged for this class till the end

EIGHTH GRADE 1940-1941

SIXTH AND SEVENTH GRADES 1940-1941

of the year. From September 1893 till December 1898 this basement room served as a class room for the little ones. It was anything but a cheerful room.

In order to provide better class rooms, the congregation decided to build a new modern brick school building on the original site. On January 15, 1898, the new brick school, with provisions for four class rooms and a basement room which was to serve as a confirmation room, was dedicated. Already, in 1901, it was necessary to organize a fourth class. By Easter 1904 the enrollment had increased to 388. This necessitated the organization of a fifth class. This class had to use the basement room. In 1905 Mr. Link was granted permission to introduce the German-English edition of the catechism in the upper class in order to acquaint the pupils with the English terms used in religion. In 1912 the enrollment date was changed from Easter to September.

By 1912 it was evident that again the school was too small. A sixth class had to be organized. To accommodate the sixth class the congregation purchased the property adjoining the school grounds on the west. The house was remodeled so as to serve for class room purposes. It was used as a class room for less than one year, since in the spring of 1913 it was moved away to make room for the new addition to the school building. Miss Baginski, with her flock, had to move into the church basement until the new addition was completed.

In 1913 the new addition with two class rooms and a faculty room on the first floor; Y.P.S. hall, kitchen and a library on the second floor; and a full basement under the whole building, was added to the old building. This was indeed a fitting way to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the school. The school now had six good class rooms and

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

—Proverbs 22, 6.

"I will give them an heart to know Me, that I am the Lord." —Jeremiah 24, 7.

a basement room. Again the basement room served as a confirmation room.

In the spring of 1916 it became apparent that six teachers could no longer take care of the ever increasing number of pupils. The enrollment in December 1915 showed 429 pupils in school. The prospects were that it would be considerably higher in September 1916. It was therefore decided to add the seventh class. The basement room was again converted into a class room. The enrollment during the next school year reached 441. At this time St. Johannes enjoyed the distinction of having the largest parochial school in synod.

From the very beginning parents were required to pay 50 cents tuition per month per child. This was discontinued in the fall of 1920.

The faculty room, which had been used for various other purposes for the first seven years, was finally furnished as a faculty meeting room and a school library. The children's library was opened in February 1921. It is still functioning. The year of 1921 was saddened by the death of Mr. E. D. Keyl, the first and only servant of the church to die while in our midst. Mr. Keyl had been called to instruct the third grade in September 1920. He became ill the following spring. Valiantly he tried to finish the term, but was forced to give up two weeks before close of school. After a lingering and painful illness, Mr. Keyl passed to his reward on December 20, 1921. His mortal remains lie buried on our Lutheran Cemetery on the special lot reserved for pastors, teachers, and their families.

Owing to the decreased enrollment, the congregation decided, at the occasion of Mr. Winterstein's release on May 22, 1925, to discontinue the seventh class at the end of the school year. The following September the

FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADES 1940-'41

SECOND AND THIRD GRADES 1940-'41

FIRST GRADE 1940-'41

SCHOOL LUNCH 1940-'41

third grade was divided. Mr. Klebe took care of about one half of the third grade in his room with the fourth grade and Mr. Knuth took the remaining part into his room with the fifth grade.

The first World War brought the language question, i.e. should religion be taught by means of the German or English language, to the foreground. Although the change to the English was opposed by a number of well meaning older members, it came about under force of circumstances. The contention that St. Johannes School would die with the discontinuance of the German language has proved unfounded. Our members are not maintaining a parochial school to teach a foreign language, but solely and alone to have their children instructed in the ONE THING NEEDFUL and to have them brought up IN THE NURTURE AND ADMONITION OF THE LORD. God's Word is not bound to any language.

Since the generation after the World War no longer used the German language as a medium of conversation in their homes, the school was compelled to discontinue the German language as a subject during the late 20's.

During this time there was a constant and rapid decrease in the size of families in our congregation as reflected in the number of baptisms. In 1918 our pastors performed 73 baptisms, in 1925 only 45, and in 1930 the number of baptisms decreased to 26. No wonder that the school enrollment likewise decreased. In 1930 it was again necessary to discontinue another class. While debating how to consolidate, Miss Oelgeschlager informed the board that she had decided to quit teaching as her aged parents needed her at home. Thereupon the following changes were

"Behold, Thou hast instructed many, and Thou hast strengthened the weak hands." —Job 4, 3.

"Teach them the good way wherein they should walk." —I Kings 8, 36.

made: Miss Predoehl was placed in charge of the first grade, the second and third grades were combined under the care of Mr. Brink, Mr. Klebe took over the fourth and fifth grades, Mr. Knuth was given the sixth grade, and Mr. Wunderlich kept the seventh and eighth grades. Since this arrangement was somewhat unbalanced, Mr. Wunderlich and Mr. Knuth began to experiment with the departmental system the following year.

In departmental teaching a certain teacher teaches a certain subject in the various grades. For the 1931-32 school year the seventh grade, which up till then had been in Room I, was moved into Room II together with the sixth grade. Mr. Wunderlich taught history and geography, and Mr. Knuth taught arithmetic in the two rooms. While Mr. Wunderlich was teaching history or geography in Room I (eighth grade), Mr. Knuth would instruct the sixth and seventh grades in arithmetic in Room II. The next period they would change about. This arrangement proved so satisfactory that the following year, by permission of the congregation, the departmental system was extended to include Mr. Klebe with his fourth and fifth grades in Room III.

Since September 1932 Mr. Wunderlich has charge of English from fourth to eighth grades. Mr. Klebe teaches geography, civics, penmanship, and drawing in the same grades, while Mr. Knuth takes care of arithmetic. Mr. Wunderlich also has charge of history in the upper two grades and music in the upper three grades, while Mr. Knuth instructs physiology in the same grades. The first period, from 8:30-9:45, is devoted to religion. During that period the pastor takes the eighth grade for confirmation instruction, and Mr. Wunderlich the seventh grade. In order to relieve Mr. Klebe, who has two grades in religion, Mr. Knuth takes part of the fifth grade into his room for recitation; after which they return to their home room for Bible history or catechism instruction.

Only one change has taken place on the faculty during the past eleven years. This occurred in 1934 when Miss Predoehl decided to continue her studies at Winfield, Kansas. It was then that Miss Oelgeschlager (whose father had died since she left us in 1930) returned to us. The present staff has a total of 89 years of service in St. Johannes to its credit, an average of 18 years per person, whereas the average of all former teachers, both male and female, is less than 6 years.

FACULTY

Mr. F. W. Brink
Miss Esther Oelgeschlager
Mr. F. W. Klebe
Mr. F. C. Wunderlich, Principal
Mr. Edmund Knuth
Rev. E. C. Wegehaupt

Receiving Diploma

During this our jubilee year the school lunches were introduced. These lunches are prepared and served by WPA personnel, to a large extent with government surplus food commodities. In order to serve a balanced meal the government supplies must be supplemented by the school. To cover this expense the school charges each pupil who stays for lunch 7 cents per meal. All pupils whose parents are on relief or on WPA payroll are served free. About 85% of our pupils now partake of these lunches.

The teachers annually prepare and present an operetta or some other form of entertainment with the pupils. The net proceeds from these entertainments, as well as the net proceeds from the School and Sunday School picnic, flow into the Library and School Supply Fund. This fund was created in the early 20's. It is administered by the School Board. Since that time it has not been necessary to ask the congregation to appropriate money from the General Fund for school supplies. In 1936 the School Board resolved to permit one or two teachers to attend summer school annually, and to pay the tuition out of the above mentioned fund. To date four teachers have availed themselves of the opportunity for a total of 9 terms.

St. Johannes School has always endeavored to maintain a high scholastic standing. Its graduates have always been admitted to the ninth grade of the public school without examination or question.

We are very fortunate in having a pastor who with heart and soul works for the interest of the school. He meets with the faculty every Monday after school for an hour except when urgent congregational affairs prevent him. He is in school every morning to instruct the confirmation class. Thus he takes complete charge of the religious instruction of the eighth grade. The school has also been fortunate in that the faculty, working in harmony, has always enjoyed the confidence and cooperation of the school board.

After more than fifty years of the school's existence, one thing is still lacking—ADEQUATE PLAYGROUNDS. We are still in hopes that sometime, somehow, also this goal will be obtained. If we should dare to express another wish, it would be that St. Johannes will soon add a kindergarten, and, if possible, a ninth grade. Adding the ninth grade would enable our school to offer a complete Junior High School course.

May the Lord also in the future extend His protecting and blessing hand over this important mission institution in our midst! May many pupils here learn the only true philosophy of life—to live and die a Christian!

"Continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them." —II Timothy 3, 14.

REGULARLY CALLED TEACHERS THAT HAVE SERVED ST. JOHANNES

	Installed		Released		Length of Service (Years)
F. K. Hildebrandt	September	1889	February	1893	3½
Adolf L. Lamp	September	1892	September	1894	2
H. Abel	September	1893	September	1894	1
A. M. Reinhardt	December	1894	December	1900	6
J. T. Link	September	1895	April	1908	13—
Max Scheiter	September	1898	March	1902	4—
R. Lorenz	March	1901	August	1926	25+
Paul Schuelke	September	1902	December	1904	2+
H. C. Meier	March	1905	July	1912	7+
Martin Rabe	September	1905	June	1911	6
K. H. Floering	July	1908	June	1912	4
A. J. Holtmann	October	1911	July	1919	8—
Paul Arndt	September	1912	September	1915	3
A. F. Droegemueller	October	1912	April	1922	9½
H. F. Klinkermann	January	1916	January	1918	2
E. P. Grefe	September	1917	September	1920	3
Edmund Knuth	September	1917			24
F. W. Brink	February	1920			21
E. D. Keyl	September	1920	December	1921	1+
F. W. Klebe	August	1922			19
Paul Winterstein	August	1922	May	1925	3—
F. C. Wunderlich	August	1927			14

LADY TEACHERS THAT HAVE SERVED ST. JOHANNES

Miss Adele Holst	September 1890 to June 1892	2 years
Miss Adele Holst	September 1894 to June 1898	4 years
Miss Adele Holst	September 1901 to March 1905	4 years
Miss Agnes Liebe	March 1905 to June 1905	4 months
Miss Lydia Berg	September 1905 to June 1912	7 years
Miss Anna Baginski	September 1912 to June 1917	5 years
Miss Alma Heyne	September 1912 to June 1914	2 years
Miss Anna Bredlau	September 1914 to June 1926	12 years
Miss Bertha Luehrsen	September 1921 to June 1927	6 years
Miss Esther Oelgeschlager	September 1926 to June 1930	4 years
Miss Lydia Predoehl	September 1927 to June 1934	7 years
Miss Esther Oelgeschlager	September 1934 to date	7 years

STUDENTS THAT HAVE TAUGHT IN ST. JOHANNES

A. F. Imm opened the school in 1888.

G. Witte, 1894 to 1895.

Edwin Heyne, 1904 to 1905.

F. Sell; A. Moeller; Barnowski; Polzin; Otto Bahr; Schreiber; Wendling; Walter Heyne; Seebach; Pappe; Breda, and C. H. Geiger (and very likely others) served less than a year each.

LAYMEN

H. L. Bauman (September to December 1894) and Wm. B. Heyne (September 1916 to June 1917).

PASTORS

Rev. W. H. Lessmann taught in the fall of 1893. Rev. Robert. Heyne (April 1918 to June 1921). Rev. Robt. Flachsbart (September 1919 to February 1920).

"Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the Word of God."

—Hebrews 13, 7.

SCHOOL AND SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC

"Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself?" —ROMANS 2, 21

Sunday School

Not only does the Lutheran Church provide religious education for its children through the Day School, but it has other agencies through which it reaches its children. One of these is the Sunday School. The Sunday School endeavors to provide religious training especially for such children who cannot or will not attend the Day School. It also seeks to act as a Missionary agency for such children in the community who get no religious training at all.

In St. Johannes the Sunday School is an outgrowth of the "Christenlehre", a form of instruction carried out by the pastor during the regular service. This form of instruction is still in use in some of our rural congregations in synod..

In 1927, under the direction of Rev. C. J. Pritz, our present set-up of Sunday School was organized. It includes the Cradle Roll, Primary, Junior, Intermediate, and Senior departments, as well as the Bible Class. A superintendent is at the head of the Sunday School. He, together with the pastor and the department heads, forms and shapes the policies of the organization. All the officers, excepting the superintendent, are elected by the staff for a period of one year.

SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF

Back Row: Agnes Grooms, Mary Ellen Shulke, Helen Stern, Henrietta Nalefski, Milton Donkofski, Edmund Knuth, Ernest Novak, Rhoda Knuth, Irene Suzewits.

Second Row: Lorraine Kashefska, Myrtle Blankenburg, Mildred Tanzyus, Edna Maleska, Margaret Yobski, Pauline Rostek, Martha Novack, Esther Oelgeschlager, Verna Novak, Helen Tanzyus, Marie Brink, Hilda Schmid, Lucille Zerfowski.

First Row: Ellen Yobski, Agnes Longbons, Ruth Augustine, Arnold Kubow, F. C. Wunderlich, Richard Rokosch, Edwin Augustine, Ruth Doddek, Alma Ruthrauff, Dorothy Schultz, Helen M. Tanzyus.

Absent: Marie Gross, Raymond Schultz.

SENIOR DEPARTMENT

INTERMEDIATE DEPARTMENT

The superintendent is elected by the Voters' Assembly. The present officers are: Edmund Knuth, Superintendent; Ernest A. Novak, Treasurer; Irene Suzewits, Enrollment Secretary; Edna Maleska, Recording Secretary; Henrietta Nalefski, Cradle Roll Secretary; Helen Stern, Birthday Secretary; Alma Doddek, Pin Secretary; Dorothy Kujawa, Marie Gross, and Agnes Grooms respectively head the Intermediate, Junior, and Primary departments.

Five teachers who joined the staff at the time the Sunday School was organized in 1927 are still active. These are: Edwin Augustine, Ruth Doddek, Agnes Longbons, Martha Novack, and Edna Maleska.

The teachers of our Sunday School must be well-equipped to teach. To do this highly important and sacred work, they receive regular instruction for their weekly lessons. They are also asked to attend classes in which our Synod's training courses are studied. Five courses have been given with Mr. Edmund Knuth and Mr. F. C. Wunderlich as instructors. Twelve individuals have completed 5 courses, eight of these are still on the staff and are now

"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." —Matthew 28, 20.

"This is life eternal, that they might know Thee, the only true God." —JOHN 17, 3.

taking the sixth course. Seven have finished 4 courses, nine, 3 courses, fourteen, 2 courses and thirteen have credit for one course. A total of 55 persons have a total of 156 credits. Not all of these are on the present staff. The sixth course, "Learn to Know the Child", is now being given and should be completed by the end of November. Twenty-four are enrolled in the present course with Mr. F. C. Wunderlich as instructor.

Although we are well aware that the Sunday School can offer so little of an important thing, because of the lack of time and equipment, yet we are confident that it has brought Christ to many children who otherwise would have learned nothing of Him. Besides this, it has also been the stepping-stone for many children into the Day School. In that way it has been a "feeder" for the Day School, gaining children from outside our ranks. It has truly become a real mission agency.

It is our sincere wish that the members of the congregation become deeply interested in this mission agency and that our teachers remain diligent in equipping themselves more and more for this important work.

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

Timothy Bible Class

Bible Classes are, no doubt, an old established institution in St. Johannes. In 1930 the pastor found two of them in the congregation, a Junior Bible Class taught by Mr. F. W. Klebe, and a senior Bible Class taught by the pastor. Later an Adult Bible Class was also organized. This, however, failed finally because it was not sufficiently supported by the members. Since October 1938 a Bible Class for all confirmed in recent years was reorganized which assumed the above mentioned name. The reason for this choice of name is found in the Apostle Paul's remark to his pupil Timothy in his second letter, chapter 3, 15-17: "And that FROM A CHILD THOU HAST KNOWN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES, which are able to make thee WISE UNTO SALVATION through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by INSPIRATION OF GOD, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." The Timothy Bible Class meets every Sunday morning immediately after the morning English Service on the balcony of the church. Officers are elected every October after the latest children's confirmation class has been transferred from the Senior Department of the Sunday School. For some time Carl Shulke served as organist; at the present time Jola Kuntz accompanies the singing on the organ. Business meetings are held as necessary; a collection is taken on the last Sunday of the month to cover class expenses. The Bible itself is used in study. The two letters of Paul to Timothy have recently been completed. Any member of the church is welcome at the Bible Class sessions.

The present officers of the Timothy Bible Class are: Orville Augustine, President; Mary Kersch, Vice-President; Jola Kuntz, Secretary; and Melvin Knuth, Treasurer.

"Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."
—John 5, 39.

"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." —EPHESIANS 5, 19.

Choirs

St. Johannes has always been a singing congregation. From its very beginning, 50 years ago, singing organizations have flourished in its midst. Among them were mixed choirs, Men's and Women's Glee Clubs, quartettes, octettes, and children's choruses. The main purpose of all these organizations has always been to beautify the church services, although some of them have also done work in presenting operettas. At present St. Johannes has in its midst a Senior Mixed Choir, a Junior Mixed Choir, a Senior Children's Chorus, and a Junior Children's Chorus. The Senior Mixed Choir accepts members 18 years or older. The Junior Mixed Choir is composed of members from confirmation age to the age of 18. The members then automatically become members of the Senior Mixed Choir. The Junior Choir is the youngest organization, being organized in 1940. Mr. Wunderlich directs these choirs.

The Senior and Junior Choruses are our children's choruses. The Senior Chorus is composed of children in the 4th to the 8th grades inclusive. Mr. Wunderlich directs this group.

The Junior Chorus comprises the grades from 1 to 3 inclusive. This group is directed by Mr. Brink.

JUNIOR CHOIR

Back Row: Richard Koshinski, Orville Wunderlich, Orville Augustine, President; Carlyle Reinhold, Secretary; Kenneth Wunderlich, Donald Augustine, Mr. F. C. Wunderlich, Director.

Second Row: Carl Brink, Donald Behrend, Mary Kersch, Treasurer; Erna Dworak, Wilma Maleska, Anna Tanzyus, Vice-President; Pauline Schlesier, Edward Tertocha, Marvin Porter.

First Row: Ione Morenz, Faye Roarick, Alma Roarick, Loraine Donkofski, Verna Grabowski, Eunice Kilian, Edna Karloski.

SENIOR CHOIR

Back Row: Henry Bauman, Henry Koshinski, Robert Roarick, Arnold Kopetz, Walter Gross.

Fourth Row: Edmund Knuth, Lenora Roarick, Henrietta Nalefski, Emily Laskowski, Edna Maleska, Agnes Longbons, F. W. Klebe.

Third Row: Helen Stern, Helen M. Tanzyus, Alma Lischewski, Mildred Tanzyus, Helen Tanzyus, Laura Suzewits, Helen Koshinski.

Second Row: Martha Hendrian (organist), Lorraine Kashefska, Margaret Dombroski, Marie Gross, Martha Novack, Esther Oelgeschlager, Lydia Koshinski, Mildred Kwasny, F. C. Wunderlich, Director.

First Row: Ruth Doddek, Margaret Behrend, Marie Wond, Rhoda Knuth, Irene Suzewits, Agnes Grooms, Elsie Doddek (Smith.)

Absent: Clarence Salogga, Myrtle Blankenburg.

Back Row: Edwin Augustine, Harold Koslofski, David White, Edward Hill, Milton Donkofski, Robert Salogga, Arnold Kopetz, Clarence Hill, Arnold Kubow, Henry Koshinski, Jr.
Third Row: Florence Yobski, Lenora Roarick, Ellen Yobski, Marie Gross, Helen Koshinski, Myrtle Blankenburg, Margaret Zerfowski, Leona Yobski, F. W. Klebe, Rev. E. C. Wegehaupt.
Second Row: Margaret Yobski, Martha Novack, Edna Maleska, Robert Roarick, Walter Zerfowski, Richard Rokosch, Florence White, Ruth Augustine, Dorothy Koslofski.
First Row: Walter Salogga, Pauline Rostek, Walter Gross, Hilda Schmid, Wilfred Karloski, Esther Oelgeschlager, Clarence Salogga.

Senior Walther League

Following a preliminary meeting on January 9, the Young People's Society was organized on February 3, 1895. In that meeting the following officers were elected: Henry J. Goodmann, President; Henry L. Bauman, Secretary; and Chris. Hendrian, Treasurer. The constitution adopted in that meeting states the purpose of the organization to be: To unite the youth of St. Johannes, and by means of this union to encourage one another to attend divine services diligently and regularly in order to remain steadfast in the pure doctrine and the true faith. The constitution sets forth the following aims: 1) To promote wholesome Christian entertainments; 2) To maintain a good library; 3) To present entertainments and lectures; 4) To support indigent students.

The purpose and aims of the society today are practially the same as those of 1895. In 1916 the Young People's Society joined the International Walther League, and the society gradually became known as the St. Johannes Walther League. It faithfully endeavors to carry out the program prepared and furnished by the International Walther League. The Seniors have a monthly business meeting at which time they also discuss an educational topic. Since joining the International Walther League the society has actively supported the Wheatridge Sanitarium through the sale of Christmas seals. The leaguers take part in district events, such as the Concordia Track and Field Meet and Talent Quests. Many trophies and honors have been won at these events.

The present officers are: Milton Donkofski, President; Wilfred Karloski, Vice-President; Pauline Rostek, Secretary; Arnold Kubow, Treasurer; and Hilda Schmid, Assistant Treasurer.

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God."
—I John 3, 1.

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." —I JOHN 4, 11.

Junior Walther League

One of the most active societies of St. Johannes is the Junior Walther League. Up to the year 1922 the juniors were united with the Senior Society. After their separation, the Juniors immediately joined the Walther League. Their charter was granted on November 24, 1922. The main aim and purpose of the Junior Walther League is to keep all of the young people with the church.

The Juniors conduct their own business meetings. Besides transacting their business affairs they have an educational topic every month. Their monthly entertainments during the winter give place to outings during the summer months. The Juniors usually present at least one play a year for the public. In the 1941 Talent Quest the Juniors won four prizes.

The Junior Society is advised by six members elected by the Senior Society and one of the teachers who represents the pastor. The present advisers to the Juniors are: F. W. Brink, Spiritual Adviser; Edwin Augustine, Chairman; Arnold Kubow, Henry Koshinski, Jr., Pauline Rostek, Ruth Augustine, and Margaret Yobski.

Junior Officers, 1941-42: Orville Augustine, President; Robert Colbert, Vice-President; Wilma Maleska, Secretary; Richard Koshinski, Treasurer; Ione Morenz, Assistant Treasurer.

Back Row: Theodore Knuth, Orville Wunderlich, Robert Hendrian, Orville Augustine, Ralph Dombroski, Carl Koslofski, Robert Kujawa, Robert Colbert, Ralph Roarick.
Second Row: Louis Tertocha, Edward Tertocha, Eugene Salefski, Donald Behrend, Richard Koshinski, Kenneth Wunderlich, William Wappler, Donald Augustine, Harold Doddek, Marvin Porter.
Third Row: Eunice Bingamon, Ina Herbrig, Loraine Donkofski, Anna Tanzyus, Verna Grabowski, Wilma Maleska, Iris Herbrig, Lorraine Kashefska, Mary Kersch.
Front Row: William Roarick, Ione Morenz, Eunice Killian, Edna Karloski, Erna Dworak, Pauline Schlesier, Lois Bauman, Jola Kuntz, Carl Brink, Rev. E. C. Wegehaupt.

Back Row: Henrietta Leipski, Louise Hill, Pauline Nalefski, Margaret Tanzyus, Margaret Lischewski, Augusta Teschner, Bertha Lischewski, Rev. E. C. Wegehaupt.
Fifth Row: Martha Waltens, Augusta Kujawa, Charlotte Tanzyus, Amalie Sharnett, Minnie Hendrian, Tina Tatman, Gertrude Grabowski, Frieda Kersch, Lydia Brink, Emma Maleska.
Fourth Row: Bertha Morenz, Martha Riewski, Emma Nalefski, Augusta Hill, Augusta Halmbacher, Henrietta Schiminski, Minnie Augustine, Bertha Patzewitz, Martha Donkofski, Wilhelmina Grabowski, Louise Salefski, Emma Tanzyus.
Third Row: Anna Doddek, Mary Orkowski, Augusta Brix, Augusta Kaminski, Gottliebe Dombroski, Bertha Dongowski, Amalie Mintler, Lydia Siweck, Augusta Buckley.
Second Row: Marie Wittke, Bertha Schlachter, Mary Hill, Augusta Salogga, Charlotte Sakris, Mary Petzel, Anna Augustine, Wilhelmina Dannewitz, Martha Bauman, Henrietta Bressem, Marie Gendry.
Front Row: Henrietta Fischer, Minnie Behrend, Johanna Reich, Carolina Falk, Ida Morenz (Vice-President), Anna Tanzyus (President), Margaret Wegehaupt (Secretary), Anna Hendrian (Treasurer), Anna Beck.

Ladies' Aid Society

A study of the minutes of this organization definitely established the fact that this society is the oldest in the congregation, yea, that it actually was founded in the first month of the congregation's existence. We may assume with confidence that Pastor Lessmann gathered the pious and godly mothers of the church on the second Sunday in Advent in 1891, December 6th, to enlist their services in the work of the Kingdom, showing them from Holy Writ how the godfearing women at all times placed their gifts and talents at the disposal of the Master. According to the minutes of the congregation meeting held November 27, 1892, the Ladies' Aid Society was to entertain the guests at the dedication of the church in 1892. We still hope to locate the minutes of the meetings of this group covering the first five years of its history. Beginning with January 1897 they are in two record books. Though they are quite brief, yet they contain sufficient evidence of the blessed activities of this society. It supported the home church by supplying it with altar and pulpit coverings, communion vessels, carpets, by cleaning both church and school regularly, helping poor and sick members, presenting pulpit gowns to the pastor and to at least two of his sons, subsidizing poor students, helping various charity endeavors within the Synod, entertaining Pastors' and Teachers' Conferences, District Conventions, helping serve at picnics. Especially would we gratefully acknowledge the ofttimes large donations to the congregation's treasuries when building or repair operations demanded heavy expenses. One of the finest and most useful gifts of this Society to the congregation is the maintenance of the telephone in the parsonage continuously since May 1908. At the present time this society is the largest organization in the congregation. Meetings are held every first Wednesday of the month in the Church Parlors.

"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep His commandments."
—I John 5, 2.

"God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in Him." —I JOHN 4, 16.

Ladies' Mission Society

It was on June 25, 1923, that a preliminary meeting was held with Rev. Robert Heyne as organizer. Not until October 17, 1923, was the Mission Society actually founded. At the November meeting the following officers were elected: Ella Weimer, President; Anna Blankenburg, Vice-President; Laura Clem, Secretary; and Cora Heideman, Treasurer.

From its very beginning, the society has had as its aim to organize the young women of the congregation for mission endeavors and to welcome the young women of the adult confirmation classes into its midst.

It was with deep regrets that the society parted with the services of its organizer and adviser, Rev. Robert Heyne, when he accepted another pastorate in 1926. During the following four years Rev. Wm. Heyne, Rev. C. J. Pritz and Rev. E. F. Mueller succeeded one another as counselor to the Mission Society. Since November 1930, Rev. E. C. Wegehaupt has been the society's adviser.

During the past eighteen years the society has contributed $2,420.83 for missions. Approximately $2,550 was derived from dues, birthday offerings, plays, socials, jitney suppers, bakery, extract, and rummage sales.

The society still has one charter member, Laura Clem. Mary Schwalbe, who joined the society in its second meeting, has missed but one meeting to date. She was on jury duty at the time of the meeting.

Officers of this the 50th Anniversary Year of our church are: Ruth Novak served the first three months as president and was succeeded by Helen Kujawa. Louise Rostek, Vice-President; Dolly Lorenz resigned as secretary and was succeeded by Laura Clem. Martha Dworak is serving as treasurer.

Back Row: Martha Dworak, Margaret Klebe, Bernice Sablotny, Eva Augustine, Henrietta Nalefski, Irene Lenover, Dolly Lorenz, Elsie Tebussek, Fern Kersch, Lydia Koshinski.
Second Row: Louise Rostek, Helen Kujawa, Bernice Raebel, Bertha Herbrig, Mary Schwalbe, Evelyn Reich, Clara Wunderlich, Mary Nalefski.
First Row: Eleanor Kresin, Hattie Coover, Tillie Gordy, Margaret Wegehaupt, Rev. E. C. Wegehaupt, Esther Wappler, Hattie Lischewski, Ruth Novak, Laura Clem.
Absent: Eva Novak, Olaf Golembeck, Martha Novack, Hattie Koshinski, Daisy Salefski, Emma Doner, Iona Bagley, Bertha Salefski, Rose Luther.

Standing: Amalie Scharnett, Louise Hill, Martha Waltens.

Seated: Martha Donkofski, Maria Petzel, Emma Maleska, Augusta Halmbacher, Augusta Salogga, Wilhelmina Hendrian, Wilhelmina Behrend, Ida Morenz, Anna Doddek, Anna Tanzyus, Anna Augustine, Minnie Augustine.

Absent: Bertha Falk, Minnie Koshinski, Ida Novak.

Sewing Circle

The Sewing Circle was organized on January 4, 1906, with Mrs. Bachmann as leader. Today it still boasts two charter members, Louise Hill and Wilhelmina Hendrian.

The Sewing Circle originally met in the home of its members. The members would assemble in the forenoon bringing their lunches. At noon they would serve a potluck dinner. They spent the day sewing sheets, pillow cases, etc., for the Lutheran Hospital in Springfield, as well as for the Home of the Children's Friend Society in Peoria. They loyally supported these institutions. It was no fault of theirs that both of these institutions went out of existence, neither did that spell dissolution for the Sewing Circle. The society had frequently been called upon to quilt. Since the charges were very reasonable and the workmanship excellent, the Sewing Circle received more and more orders for quilts. In order to have a larger working room the society moved into the school hall in 1929. There the members meet every Thursday except during the summer months. In its banner year the society produced 51 quilts. With the proceeds it has supported various undertakings of the church and school.

BIRTHDAY PARTY—1909

Bowling Association

When in 1913 the new addition was built to the school, the Young People's Society had high hopes of installing standard bowling alleys in the basement. It was soon discovered that the building was too short and the space allotted too narrow for standard alleys. Being determined to have bowling alleys, the Young People's Society purchased old alleys from the R.R. Y.M.C.A., shortened and narrowed them to fit the allotted space. These alleys afforded the young people much recreation and entertainment during the following years.

In the summer of 1932 the Y.P.S. (now Walther League) turned the operation of the recreation parlor over to the newly formed Bowling Association. From 1932 to 1936 the proceeds from the bowling alleys were retained in a fund for the purchase of new alleys. By 1936, $1,200 had accumulated in the fund. Since that was sufficient only for extending the building, three members of the association jointly guaranteed the sum needed for the down payment on new standard alleys. Others made cash contributions to get the project started. The new alleys were installed at a cost of $2,500. Besides various other alterations in the basement, a new entrance was made. In April 1941 at a supper for all bowlers, the officers of the association had the pleasure to announce that the entire debt had been paid. At the same time it was announced that the Bowling Association would continue to operate the bowling alleys and that a certain percent of the proceeds would be retained in a fund to guarantee replacement of the present alleys when worn out. Additional recreation facilities will be installed from time to time as occasion demands.

Men's and ladies' leagues bowl match games the first part of the week. When match games are not scheduled, the alleys are open to members of St. Johannes. Arthur Augustine enjoys the honor of being the first one to bowl a perfect (score of 300) game on the present alleys. He performed this feat on October 13, 1941.

The present officers are: Arthur Augustine, President; August Lischewski, Vice-President; Milton Donkofski, Secretary; Edward Hill, Treasurer; Messrs. Otto Kujawa, Martin Reich, and Arthur Gross, are the members of the Executive Board.

LADY BOWLERS

Back Row: Frieda Kubow, Laura Augustine, Verna Novak, Eleanor Maleska, Helen Koshinski, Edna Maleska, Mildred Reich, Lillian Lasko, Dorothy Morenz, Margaret Yobski, Pauline Rostek.

Front Row: Martha Novack, Martha Kubow, Margaret Behrend, Marie Gross, Esther Oelgeschlager, Beulah Reich, Eleanor Zerfowski, Irene Suzewits, Ellen Yobski.

MEN BOWLERS

Back Row: Charles Morenz, Frank Koshinski, August Lischewski, William Manthei, Milton Donkofski, Robert Reinhold, Martin Reich, Walter Hendrian, Harry Koslofski, Otto Dombroski, Edward Hill, Ralph Dombroski, Emil Kujawa, Daniel Rostek, Fred Shulke, Otto Kujawa.

Second Row: Arthur Gross, Henry Koshinski, Jr., Clarence Hill, Raymond Tertocha, Carl Wond, Richard Koshinski, William Maleska, Charles Hill, Albert Grabowski, Elvin Karloski, Donald Behrend, Otto Rostek, Carl Koslofski.

Front Row: Martin Riewski, William Artze, Henry Riewski, Arthur Augustine, Albert Artze.

"They that have used the office of a deacon well, purchase to themselves a good degree."
—I Timothy 3, 13.

Mr. Emmanuel Novack Mr. F. W. Brink

Administration

VOTERS' ASSEMBLY

Every Lutheran church is a democratic organization in the fullest sense of the term. As in every Lutheran church, so also in St. Johannes, all administrative policies rest with the congregation, which is represented by the Voters' Assembly. Every male member of the church over 21 years of age may and is urged to join the Voters' Assembly and make use of his privilege to participate in administering the affairs of the church. It is to be deplored that so many shirk their duty and do not make use of their voting membership. In order to administer the affairs of the church efficiently, the Voters' Assembly elects various boards and committees which have certain specified duties to perform. These make their reports and recommendations to the Voters' Assembly, which meets bi-monthly. The final decision in any temporal affair of the church always rests with the Voters' Assembly.

The officers of the Voters' Assembly are: Mr. Emmanuel Novack, Chairman, and Mr. F. W. Brink, Secretary.

BOARD OF ELDERS

When first organized, the congregation had only two members on the Board of Elders. Through the years the board has been enlarged to twenty. This increase was made necessary by the increase in congregational membership, by the increase in the number of services, and by the fact that our members are now scattered over the entire city. Each member is elected to serve three years. The board's primary purpose is to assist the pastor in all matters pertaining to the spiritual welfare of the congregation. It also performs the duties of a school board. In order to facilitate the work of the board it elects various

Back Row: Messrs. Herman Doner, Henry Pannek, Gustav Tanzyus, Adelbert Coover, Wm. Tebussek, Fred Tanzyus, Arthur Gross, Wm. Kuntz, Julius Riewski, Emil Kujawa, Roy Raebel, Carl Koslofski.
Front Row: Messrs. Otto Lasko, Charles Morenz, August Teschner, J. B. Augustine, August Lischewski, Louis Tertocha, Wm. Maleska, Henry Augustine, Rev. E. C. Wegehaupt.

"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor." I Timothy 5, 17.

subcommittees, such as board of almoners, usher advisers, publicity committee, committee to build up voting membership, committee on divorces, directors at communion services, etc. Each board member is assigned a district in which he is periodically to call on 25 to 30 families. The Board of Elders, by resolution of the Voters' Assembly, is intrusted with the administration of the Communion Fund, the Luther Fund, the Charity Fund, the School Book Fund, and the School Library and Supply Fund.

The Board of Elders meets monthly to transact its business. The secretary, besides keeping the minutes of its proceedings, prepares the recommendations and presents them in written form to the Voters' Assembly. The board meets bi-monthly with the faculty of the day school to receive reports and to aid the faculty in carrying on the work of the school.

We have every reason to be deeply grateful to the large number of men who have given so generously of their time and talents for the welfare of our church during the past fifty years by serving on the Board of Elders. Many of them have passed on to their heavenly reward; for those who are still with us, we ask a full measure of God's reward for their faithfulness.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Trustees of the congregation fulfill a very important function in the church. They have in charge the administration and custody of all property of the congregation. They represent the church in all legal matters, carry out the resolutions made by the Voters' Assembly referring to the properties, making contracts, borrowing money, employing janitors, purchasing new equipment and materials, etc. The members of the Board of Trustees are elected for a term of three years. Each year one new man is elected so that the board is never entirely new. The Trustees are also members of the Cemetery Board.

CEMETERY BOARD

The Cemetery Board is composed of a treasurer, a financial secretary, and the members of the Board of Trustees. This board is intrusted with all financial and legal matters pertaining to the cemetery. Since the Perpetual Care Fund was inaugurated in 1928, quite a responsibility rests on the Cemetery Board. The total amount in Perpetual Care Fund is $4,279.45.

TRUSTEES AND CEMETERY BOARD

Back Row: Fred W. Tanzyus, John Herbrig, Harry Nalefski.
Front Row: Otto Kujawa, Henry Lischewski.

"Know them which labor among you and are over you in the Lord, . . .esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake." —I THESSALONIANS 5, 12-13.

Mr. Herman Kersch

SUPERINTENDENT OF THE CEMETERY

The Superintendent of the Cemetery is elected by the Voters' Assembly for a term of five years. He sells lots, gives permission for burials, supervises location of graves, placements of markers and tombstones. No work which would alter the physical appearance of the cemetery is to be undertaken by any lot owner without permission of the Superintendent. He also supervises the work of the caretaker.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

A congregation as large as ours requires a large budget to carry on its work properly. With a budget as large as ours it requires men of courage and many ideas to raise the funds necessary to put the budget into operation so as to end the fiscal year without a deficit. Our congregation has been blessed with conscientious and efficient financial officers who, under the blessings of God, have in the past years succeeded in raising enough funds to balance the budget.

It is the duty of the finance committee to endeavor to enlist the financial support of all communicant members, encourage regular and proportionate giving, maintain an efficient system in financial affairs, and work for the elimination of debts. Requests for additional appropriations from the general fund are first submitted to the finance committee. The committee in turn makes its recommendation on the request to the Voters' Assembly.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

The Financial Secretary is the official bookkeeper of the congregation. He receives and deposits in a bank all moneys from the Assistant Financial Secretaries and other sources. He issues vouchers to the Treasurer for the payment of all bills and salaries. Mr. Karl Schroeder is the present Financial Secretary.

THE TREASURER

The Treasurer, on order from the Financial Secretary, pays all bills and salaries. Mr. Henry Bauman is the present incumbent. The Treasurer and the Financial Secretary are bonded. They jointly issue regularly quarterly reports.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Standing: William Bartuschefski, Rev. E. C. Wegehaupt, Irving Raebel.

Seated: Henry Bauman, Karl Schroeder, Edwin Beck, Robert Roarick, Henry Behrend, Ray Trowbridge, Ernest Novak.

"I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day; the night cometh when no man can work."
—John 9, 4.

ASSISTANT FINANCIAL SECRETARIES

Because of our large membership and in order to facilitate the work of the Financial Secretary, we have four assistants to take care of the envelopes coming in each week. It is their duty to record the individual contributions of each member listed in their books, and at appointed times turn their receipts over to the Financial Secretary. The Assistant Financial Secretaries are elected for a term of three years. The term of Mr. Fred Zilz expired September 31, 1941. The following will be the incumbents for the coming fiscal year beginning October 1, 1941: Messrs. Robert Kopetz, Wilfred Karloski, Ernest W. Novack and Harold Koslofski.

UTILITY ASSISTANT

As the name implies, the Utility Assistant must be a person that is able to assist and advise the Assistant Financial Secretaries if they get into difficulties. When necessary, he should be able to replace temporarily any of the assistants. Mr. Irving Raebel is the present Utility Assistant.

AUDITING COMMITTEE

The Auditing Committee has the responsibility of auditing the various financial books every three months. It makes a report on its findings to the Voters' Assembly. This committee consists of four members elected for a term of three years. They can not succeed themselves. The present auditors are: Messrs. Ralph Lorenz, Arthur Augustine, Robert Hill, John E. Nalefski, Jr.

USHERS

Efficient ushers are a necessity, especially when the services are well attended. The ushers are selected with care by the Usher Advisers, and their names presented to the Voters' Assembly for approval. Since we have two English and one German service every Sunday, a large staff of ushers is required. In order that each usher may know when he is on duty, a quarterly schedule is worked out in advance. Each usher is supplied with a schedule and one copy is posted in the lobby of the church. Mr. Edward Augustine is Usher Supervisor.

FINANCE OFFICERS

Back Row: Wilfred Karloski, Fred Zilz, Jr., Ernest W. Novack, Robert Kopetz, Arthur Augustine.

Front Row: Irving Raebel, Henry Behrend, Karl Schroeder, Henry Bauman.

"I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness."
—PSALM 84, 10.

USHERS

Back Row: Messrs. Arthur Heideman, Robert Kujawa, Orville Wunderlich, Robert Reinhold, Daniel Rostek.
Second Row: Clarence Augustine, Emmanuel Novack, Wilfred Karloski, Melvin Knuth, William Novack, Henry Koshinski, Jr., Kurt Baginski.
Front Row: Julius Riewski, Louis Tertocha, Edward Augustine, Fred Tanzyus, J. B. Augustine, Henry Pannek.

JANITORS

Up till the time of the renovation of our church in 1928, the congregation employed two janitors, one for the church and one for the school. At that time it was deemed advisable to employ a janitress to have charge of cleaning the church auditorium and a janitor to do the firing, take care of the basement, lawn, ringing of bells, etc. Mrs. Helen Zerfowski has served the church for the past 12 years.

In 1939 Mr. Herman Grabowski, one of the founders of our congregation and a member of the first School Board was forced to resign as janitor because of failing health. He had served faithfully for nine years. He was succeeded by Mr. John Tanzyus, who is our present church janitor.

Mr. Wm. Laaser has served as school janitor for the past 18 years.

John Tanzyus, Wm. Laaser

Mrs. Helen Zerfowski

National Defense Service Committee

Our 50th Anniversary falls in troublesome times. Europe is engaged in the Second World War. In our country a state of National Emergency has been declared. For the first time in its history our country has resorted to the draft in times of peace. Many of our sons have been drafted into the army. Others have enlisted.

In the spring of 1941 the Board of Elders appointed a committee to work for the spiritual welfare of our boys in the service of the United States Army and Navy. This committee is composed of the pastor and Mr. Charles Morenz representing the Board of Elders, Mr. Harry Nalefski representing the congregation, Mr. Edwin Augustine, Miss Pauline Rostek, and Miss Ellen Yobski representing the Walther League.

At its first meeting this committee organized with Mr. Morenz as chairman, Miss Yobski as secretary, and Mr .Augustine as treasurer. The committee chose to be known as the "National Defense Service Committee of St. Johannes Church." In order to keep in touch with our boys in the service, it was decided to publish a monthly bulletin to be mailed to the boys. The committee chose Mr. Edmund Knuth to be the editor of the bulletin.

The bulletin is temporarily called the "St. Johannes Bulletin for the Boys in the U. S. Service." The first issue, a little 8-page booklet appeared on July 1. It gradually increased in size. The October issue contained 16 pages.

ST. JOHANNES BOYS IN U. S. SERVICE

COAST ARTILLERY
- Pvt. Wallace Bingamon
- Pvt. Fred Dworak
- Pvt. Robert Gross
- Pvt. Edwin W. Keller
- Pvt. Karl Leipski (Released Oct. 20)

MEDICAL CORPS
- Pvt. Arthur Suzewits

ENGINEER CORPS
- Pvt. Theodore Grabowski
- Pvt. John A. Lowe

NAVY
- Donald Knuth

AIR CORPS
- Pvt. Edwin Eiserman
- Sgt. Carl F. Jeschawitz
- Pvt. Robert Laskowski
- Pvt. Elmer Morenz
- Pvt. Clarence Salogga
- Pvt. Raymond Schultz
- Pvt. Arnold Tebussek
- Pvt. Alvin Tertocha

QUARTERMASTER CORPS
- Pvt. Walter Salogga

INFANTRY
- Pvt. William Ellis
- Pvt. Albert Hill (Released Oct. 20)
- Pvt. Albert Koslowski
- Pvt. Robert C. McCane
- Pvt. Martin Riewski
- Pvt. Robert Yobski

FORMER STUDENTS OF ST. JOHANNES SCHOOL WHO ARE IN THE U. S. SERVICE

Robert Carl Rex Fred Karlowsky

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God." —Romans 13, 1.

"And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, . . . it shall be a jubilee unto you." —LEVITICUS 25, 10.

ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Back Row: Messrs. Harry Nalefski, Karl Schroeder, John W. Salogga, F. C. Wunderlich, Wm. Tebussek, Edwin Augustine, Rev. E. C. Wegehaupt.
Front Row: Henry Bauman, Emil Kujawa, Irving Raebel, F. W. Brink, Edmund Knuth, F. W. Klebe.

Golden Jubilee Anniversary Celebration

In a meeting of the Voters' Assembly on December 4, 1939, it was resolved to empower the Board of Elders to appoint an Anniversary Committee, which was to arrange for a fitting and proper observance of our impending 50th Anniversary. In a subsequent meeting of the Board a nucleus of the Golden Anniversary Committee was appointed. This committee was given power to enlarge itself and to appoint subcommittees as occasion would require.

The Anniversary Committee, in its first meeting on January 1, 1940, organized with Mr. John W. Salogga, Chairman, and Mr. Wm. Tebussek, Secretary. In that same meeting it went about to formulate plans for the celebration of the Golden Anniversary of the founding of St. Johannes Congregation. This committee, upon recommendation of the pastor, decided to observe the entire fiftieth year as a year of jubilee. It further decided to open the Jubilee Year on December 1, 1940, with a "Week of Services" and to close the celebration with another "Week of Services" the last week in November 1941, with one special Anniversary Service for each intervening month.

Since St. Johannes Church, during its entire history, has never been entirely free of debts, the Anniversary Committee decided to have as its primary aim and goal the gathering of funds to wipe out the old debt of $5,500.00 by the end of the jubilee year. This task was assigned to a subcommittee known as the Anniversary Finance Committee, the nucleus of which was appointed by the Anniversary Committee.

ANNIVERSARY FINANCE COMMITTEE

Back Row: Messrs. Edwin Augustine, Karl Schroeder, Carl Reich, Irving Raebel, Walter Lischewski.
First Row: John Herbrig, Henry Bauman, Emil Kujawa, F. W. Brink.

"This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." —PSALM 118, 24.

Another committee was appointed to select one hundred canvassers in order to convass the entire membership in one day to secure pledges and cash for the debt fund.

Other committees appointed by the Anniversary Committee are: the Publicity Committee, Mr. Wm. Tebussek, Chairman; Music Committee, Mr. F. C. Wunderlich, Chairman; and a committee in charge of church decorations, of which Mr. F. W. Klebe is chairman.

The Anniversary Committee decided to hold regular monthly meetings to transact its business and to receive reports from its subcommittees.

On January 11, 1940, in the Voters' Assembly, the Anniversary Committee reported on its plans for the Golden Anniversary Celebration. These plans were adopted.

To the Anniversary Finance Committee fell the task of getting the material ready for the every member canvass. A preliminary meeting of the "Committee of One Hundred" (canvassers) was called for Thursday evening, February 8, 1940. In this meeting the canvassers received their instructions and materials as well as a list of the members they were to call on. On Sunday morning, February 11, 1940, the Committee of One Hundred, occupying the front pews of the church, was solemnly commissioned for its work. The same day the every member canvass was begun. At certain intervals the committee has been called upon to do follow-up work. The Anniversary Finance Committee is endeavoring to get every member to contribute at least something towards the Debt Fund. Mr. Emil Kujawa is chairman of the Anniversary Finance Committee. The Publicity Committee, besides securing publicity in the daily papers for the anniversary celebration, appointed Mr. Edmund Knuth to be editor of the Anniversary Book. He selected the following to advise and assist him in his work: Rev. E. C. Wegehaupt, Messrs. Emmanuel Novack, Ernest A. Novak, Richard Rokosch, and Miss Pauline Rostek.

The history of our Anniversary Year would be incomplete without mentioning the part our children played in it.

As soon as the Committee of One Hundred had made its rounds to enlist all communicant members in a "Clear the Debt" drive, a unique plan was evolved by which also the school children could bring their pennies and nickels regularly and "lay them by" for the celebration. This plan was presented to the faculty, which immediately adopted it. The schoolboard also wholeheartedly gave its approval. The children, when the plan was outlined to them, approved of it with genuine children's enthusiasm.

So in February 1940, with the help of the 1940 graduating class, the plan was put into operation. Mr. Wunderlich appointed bankers from the graduating class, two for each class

COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS—1940

in school. Every Friday after school the children are given an opportunity to bank their money with their respective bankers. Each child received a card on which the amount is punched. A duplicate card, similarly punched, is retained by the bankers. In addition, a record of each child's deposit is kept on a slip of paper, thus insuring a proper check-up.

A bank account was opened with Millikin National Bank in the name of the school. The children themselves bank the money every week.

WOMEN'S SERVICE

HOMECOMING SERVICE

At the time of the celebration in November each child will receive his savings in an envelope to deposit in church as his share of the "Clear the Debt" Fund.

It was gratifying to see the enthusiasm with which the children carried on this project. Better than 97% of the children in the school have participated in this project. The total amount which the children will bring on the day of celebration will put a sizeable dent into the debt of the congregation.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE

CHILDREN'S CONFIRMATION CLASS—1941

Back Row: Clarence Scharein, Harold Semelka, Donald Schultz, Norman Nalefski, Charles Besalke, Otto Dombroski, Jr., Albert Bagley, John Shinn.

Third Row: Mary Ellen Tanzyus, Dolores Short, Lois Koshinski, Betty Ponewash, Doris Schwalbe, Vida Kersch, Betty Laaser.

Second Row: Ronald Bingamon, Richard Flecht, William Salefski, Richard Lowe, George Wolken, James Lee Grooms, William Knorr, Jr., Rev. E. C. Wegehaupt.

First Row: Rodney Polley, Mildred Pryde, Louise Storck, Doris Kashefska, Betty Rambo, Richard Paine.

BACK ROW IS BACKWARD

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASS—1941

Back Row: Wayne Gordy, Don Hubbell, William Miller, Lawrence Roe, Meredith Luster, Forrest Woodling, Roy Baker, Rev. E. C. Wegehaupt.

Front Row: Dail Clapp, Miss Margaret Bork, Mrs. Katherine Tertocha, Mrs. Verna Haupt, Mrs. Lucille Deardorff, Wm. Bork, Jr.

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE SERVICES

OPENING: WEEK OF REPENTANCE—DECEMBER 1-8, 1940

December 1—8:30 and 10:30 A. M.—John's Letter to Church at Ephesus.....(Rev. 2, 1-7)
Guest-speaker: Prof. Fred E. Mayer, St. Louis, Mo.
7:30 P. M.—John's Letter to Church at Smyrna.....(Rev. 2, 8-11)
Guest-speaker: President J. C. Schuelke, Peoria, Ill.
December 2—7:30 P. M.—John's Letter to Church at Pergamos.....(Rev. 2, 12-17)
Guest-speaker: Pastor Paul W. Streufert, St. Louis, Mo.
December 3—7:30 P. M.—John's Letter to Church at Thyatira.....(Rev. 2, 18-29)
Guest-speaker: Pastor Theodore F. A. Nickel, Aurora, Ill.
December 4—7:30 P. M.—John's Letter to Church at Sardis.....(Rev. 3, 1-6)
Guest-speaker: Pastor Erdman W. Frenk, Joliet, Ill.
December 5—7:30 P. M.—John's Letter to Church at Philadelphia.....(Rev. 3, 7-13)
Guest-speaker: Pastor Paul F. Harre, New Minden, Ill.
December 6—7:30 P. M.—John's Letter to Church at Laodicea.....(Rev. 3, 14-21)
Guest-speaker: Pastor Louis Nuechterlein, St. Joseph, Mich.
December 8—8:30 and 10:30 A. M.—SPECIAL GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY SERVICES
Guest-speaker: Prof. John T. Mueller, St. Louis, Mo.
7:00 P. M.—Special Recognition and Appreciation in Honor of Founding-Fathers and Founding-Mothers Still Living
Speaker: Pastor E. C. Wegehaupt of St. Johannes
Guest-speaker: Pastor William Heyne, Milwaukee, Wis.

MONTHLY JUBILEE SERVICES

December 24-January 6.....Golden Aniversary Christmas and New Year Services
January 12—7:00 P. M.....Women's Golden Jubilee Service
Guest-speaker: Pastor Walter Obermeyer of our mother-church
February 2—5:00 P. M.....Young People's Golden Jubilee Service
Guest-speaker: Pastor Paul W. Streufert, St. Louis, Mo.
March 30—7:30 P. M.....''Our Union with the Missouri Synod''—Jubilee Service
Guest-speaker: President John W. Behnken, D.D., Oak Park, Ill.
April 20—7:00 P. M.....Jubilee Confirmation Class Reunion Service
Speaker: Pastor Emil C. Wegehaupt of St. Johannes
May 4—7:30 P. M.....Golden Jubilee Song and Music Service
By Senior and Junior Choirs, Senior and Junior Choruses and Congregation
June 10—7:30 P. M.....Golden Anniversary Commencement Service
Guest-speaker: Prof. Walter A. Maier, Ph.D., St. Louis, Mo.
June 20—8:30 A. M.....Men's Golden Jubilee Service
Guest-speaker: Prof. Walter A. Baepler, Springfield, Ill.
August 24—8:30 A. M.....''Homecoming'' Golden Jubilee Service
Speaker: Pastor Emil C. Wegehaupt of St. Johannes
September 14—6:00 P. M.....Golden Aniversary Twilight Memorial Service
Speaker: Pastor Emil C. Wegehaupt of St. Johannes
October 26—8:30 and 10:30 A. M.....Jubilee Mission Services
Guest-speaker: Vice-President H. Harms
2:30 P. M.....Women's Mission Rally
Speaker: Mrs. W. Gnuse, Nagercoil, Travancore, South India
6:00 P. M.....''A Service for Deaf-Mutes and for Hearing''
Guest-speaker: Missionary N. P. Uhlig of St. Louis, Mo.

CLOSING WEEK OF ANNIVERSARY SERVICES
NOVEMBER 23-30, 1941

Topic: "Good Stewards of the Manifold Grace of God"—I Pet. 4, 10

THROUGH THE CHURCH GOD IN HIS GRACE HAS GIVEN US:

November 23—8:30 and 10:30 A. M.....Knowledge of Himself: Bible
Guest-speaker: Prof. F. E. Mayer, St. Louis, Mo.
7:30 P. M.....Pastors and Teachers to Proclaim His Word
Guest-speaker: Pastor O. A. Geiseman, River Forest, Ill.
November 24—7:30 P. M.....Christ Jesus as Savior from Sin
Guest-speaker: Prof. Theo. Hoyer, St. Louis, Mo.
November 25—7:30 P. M.....His Holy Spirit as Sanctifier
Guest-speaker: Pastor Alvin Edw. Wagner, River Forest, Ill.
November 26—7:30 P. M.....Faith Appropriating the Forgiveness of Sins
Guest-speaker: Pastor E. T. Lange, St. Louis, Mo.
November 27—7:30 P. M.....Ability and Willingness to Lead a Godly Life
Guest-speaker: Pastor Martin Piehler, Chicago, Ill.
November 28—7:30 P. M.....Christ's First Seal of Pardon: Holy Baptism
Guest-speaker: Pastor Paul W. Streufert, St. Louis, Mo.
November 30—8:30 and 10:30 A.M.....Christ's Second Seal of Pardon: Holy Communion
Guest-speaker: Prof. G. V. Schick, St. Louis, Mo.
Jubilee Communion Service
6:30 P. M.....Final German Anniversary Service
Guest-speaker: Pastor William Heyne, Milwaukee, Wis.
7:30 P. M.....Final Jubilee Thanksgiving Service
"True Lutheranism Up To The Minute, Always and Everywhere"
Guest-speaker: Pastor Louis Nuechterlein, St. Joseph, Mich.

Announcement of Result of JUBILEE THANKOFFERING

Epilogue

Soon our Golden Anniversary will be history. As the years roll by, our recollections of this anniversary will become dim and dimmer. May this souvenir booklet then help you to recall these events.

This booklet was not published to glorify any individual or even the congregation, but solely to glorify our Lord. For in astonishment we must say "What hath God wrought?" That a group of the common laboring class should accomplish what has been accomplished in St. Johannes, can be due only to the grace and blessing of our Lord. The cover design gives expression to our feelings at the occasion of our Golden Anniversary. For 50 years the Risen Savior has held His protecting and blessing hands over St. Johannes Congregation.

We are living in times of turmoil. The Old World is engaged in the Second World War. Dark war clouds are hanging over us. It is entirely possible that before the ink is dry on this page that our beloved country has been drawn into that war. What will the future bring for us, for our church, and for our country? Only the Lord knows. We do know, however, that if we remain faithful, He will not leave us nor forsake us. His hands are still extended over us and we can hear Him say: "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

We wish to extend a vote of thanks and gratitude to all who have in any wise contributed towards the publication of this book; especially to Mr. Lynn Hiser of Huston-Patterson Corporation, who assisted with planning the layout of this book; to Mr. T. E. Gunn of the Kane Engraving Co. for his arrangements of the engravings; to the members of the Anniversary Book Committee for their valuable help and suggestions; to the various persons who have contributed material printed in this book; to the Misses Pauline Rostek and Ellen Yobski who gave so generously of their time and skill in typing copy; to Mr. Wunderlich, Miss Oelgeschlager, and the pastor on whom we depended for most of the proof reading.

"The Lord our God be with us, as He was with
our fathers: Let Him not leave us, nor forsake us."
—I Kings 8, 57.